

A NEW
RIDDLE-BOOK

1778



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CHILDREN'S BOOK
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Sift Charlesd. Nichols - May 2, 1927

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FOOD for the MIND:
OR, A NEW
RIDDLE-BOOK.

COMPILED for the Use of
The GREAT and the LITTLE
GOOD BOYS and GIRLS
In *England, Scotland, and Ireland.*

By JOHN-THE-GIANT-KILLER, Esq;

Who Riddles tells, and merry Tale,
O'er nut-brown Cakes and Mugs of Ale.
HOMER.

Come riddle me riddle me riddle me Ree,
None are so blind as they that wont see.

PUFFENDORF

L O N D O N :

Printed for the Booksellers of Europe, Asia,
Africa, and America; and sold by T. CARNAN
and E. NEWBERY, Jun. at Number 65, St.
Paul's Church Yard. 1778.

*The Public are desired to observe, that
F. Newbery, at the Corner of St. Paul's
Church-Yard and Ludgate Street, has
not the least Concern in any of the late Mr.
JOHN NEWBERY's Entertaining Books
for Children; and, to prevent having pal-
try Compilation obtruded on them instead
of Mr. John Newbery's useful Publica-
tions, they are desired to be particularly
careful to apply for them to T. CARNAN
and F. NEWBERY, Jun. (Successors to
the late Mr. John Newbery) at Num-
ber 65, near the Bar in St. Paul's
Church-Yard.*



P R E F A C E.


 HE art of making riddles
 is so antique, that it bears
 date almost with our ear-
 liest accounts of time, and
 is a diversion with which Sampson,
 the strongest of all mankind, amused
 himself. Nor has it been confined
 to common people, as a certain au-
 thor supposes; for Kings, and even
 some of the wisest of them, are said
 to have been adepts in the science;

A 2 for

for such was the ever-to-be-remembered King Solomon, and such was his friend Hiram the King of Tyre.

Riddling, if I am not mistaken, is the art of both dissembling and un-dissembling, and, if what a great Politician has asserted to be true, that he who knows not how to dissemble knows not how to reign, this art must be eminently useful to Princes, and their Ministers, and not to them only, but to all those who are any ways connected with courts, or concerned in political transactions; for as people in high life do not always speak as they mean, nor promise what they intend to perform; or, in other words, as dissembling is held in such high estimation among the Great, and practised with applause every day, the art

art of undissimbling, should, I think, be called in to the aid of those whose heads may render them subject to imposition.---A squeeze by the hand is a dumb riddle, which may induce any one unskilled in this art to dance attendance for years; while an adept takes the unmeaning sign to pieces, and, like a Free-mason, returns the compliment by another, squeeze, to let the *Ænigmatist* know that he is in the secret. All Cyphers used by Politicians are Riddles; and were Ambassadors, and those to whom Cyphers are sent, but skilled in this science, few blunders would be made from that mystical manner of conveyance; for the meaning, without a key, would be as obvious to them,

vi . P R E F A C E.

as to the most profound decypherer of them all.

Not that I would have this science confined to political affairs :-- No, its utility is unbounded, and may be extended with propriety and benefit to every part of life, and every branch of learning. It is a kind of natural Logic, which I should be glad to see adopted by our Universities in the room of that jargon they at present make use of; for as it consists in discovering truth under borrowed appearances, it may prove of wonderful advantage to the Scholar in the pursuit of his studies, by habituating the mind to separate all foreign ideas, and consequently preserving it from that grand source of error, the being deceived by false connections. And in common life how

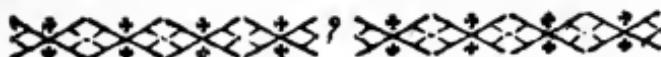
P R E F A C E. vii

how necessary is it for a man to carry this sort of knowledge about him?--- Every knave is an *Ænigma* that you must unriddle before you can safely deal with him, and every fool may be fathomed. What is making love but making riddles? And what else are some of our treaties, and indeed some of our laws? Even our grave-stones can't tell the naked truth: tombs you see are sort of riddles! a Politician is a walking Riddle; and so is a Physician and his prescription a professed *Ænigma*, intended only to be solved by the Apathecary.----- This being the truth, then will any man tell me, that the art of riddling is not of the utmost consequence to society?

I shall conclude this preface in the

words of a great author: As this science contains the sum of all human policy, and as there is no passage thro' the world without sometimes mixing with fools and knaves; who would not chuse to be master of the ænigmatical art, in order, on proper occasions, to be able to lead aside craft and impertinence from their aim, by the convenient artifice of a prudent **disguise?**





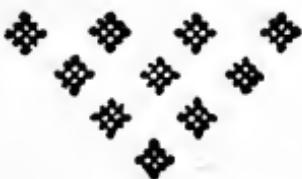
A

NEW RIDDLE BOOK.

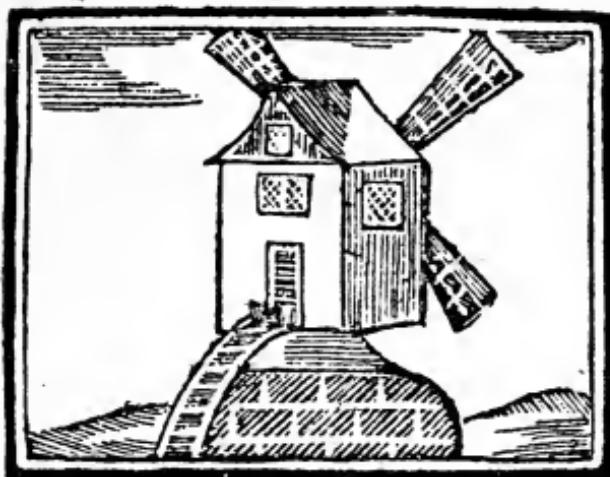


WHILE young I'm as gay as the
 maidens in *May*,
 And when dress'd in my holiday cloaths,
 Am

2 *Food for the Mind; or,*
Am the joy of the swains, and the pride
 of the plains,
And may vie with the belles and the
 beaux.
But my time's of short date, and so hard
 is my fate,
That when to full stature I'm grown,
I'm cut down by the lout, tois'd and
 tumbled about,
Till no signs of life can be shown.



FOUR



FOUR wings I have,
Which swiftly mount on high
On sturdy pinions,
Yet I never fly;
And tho' my body often moves around,
Upon the self-same spot
I'm always found;
And, like a nurse who chews the infants
meat,
I chew for man before that he can eat.
WITH



WITH words unnumber'd I a-
bound,
In me mankind take much delight,
In me great store of learning's found,
Yet I can neither read nor write.



THE



THE world I view in little space
I'm restless, ever changing place,
Nothing I eat, but by my pow'r,
Procure what all mankind devour.

My



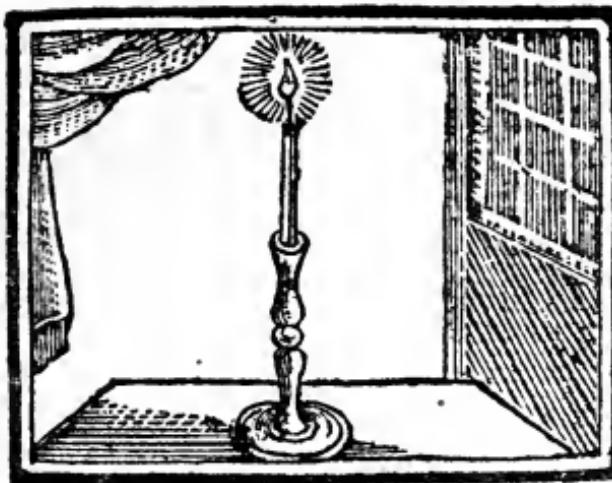
MY body is both plump and round,
With comely neck and breast,
No brighter creature would be found
Were I but oftner dress'd.
But daily I am wearied so
And my employment such,
Black as any negro go,
Nor scarce am fit to touch :

Upon



WHEN mortals are involv'd in ills,
I sing with mournful voice ;
If mirth their hearts in gladness fills,
I celebrate their joys.
And as the lark with warbling throat,
Ascends upon the wing ;
So I lift up my chearful note,
And as I mount I sing.

A Tall



A Tall and slender shape I bear,
Nor lady's skin's more white or fair :
My life is short, and doth decay
So soon it seldom lasts a day.
If in the evening brought to light,
I make my exit in the night ;

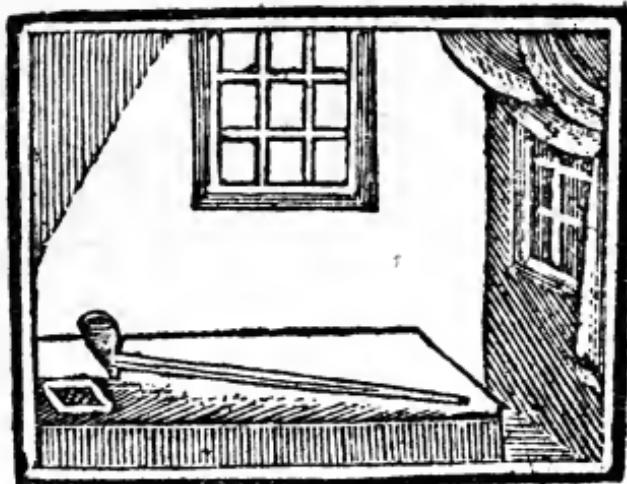
B

Yet

10 *Food for the Mind*; or,
Yet to mankind I'm useful ever,
And many hidden things discover;
Which makes all those who round me
tend,
Oft with a sigh lament my end.



I'M



I'M of the same materials made as you,
Have native ignorance and beauty too;
But when I fly for safety to your arms,
You to a foreigner resign my charms ;
He, to defile me thinks it no offence ;
And rudely robs me of my innocence :
With inward rage I burn—but hug the
foe,
And breathe out vengeance wherefo'er
I go.

B 2

Nay.



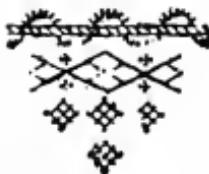
The H I G H W A Y.

WHEN *Cæsar* did this Isle invade,
I first experienc'd royal aid :
Nay, now to Majesty belong,
Tho' subject to the vulgar throng ;
Who with uncivil usage treat,
And trample me beneath their feet ;
With heavy burdens me oppres,
And money gain by my distress ;

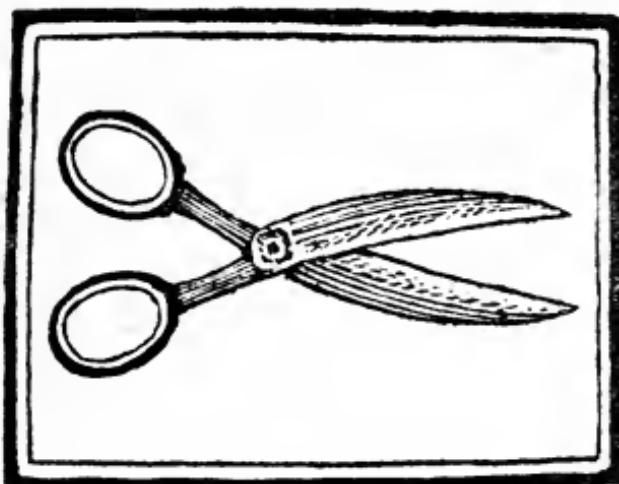
B 3

Yet

14 *Food for the MIND; or,*
Yet all their insults I endure,
While they my given bruises cure:
I am in every country found,
And traverse all the kingdom round:
Say what's my name, that's so well
known,
I am a common proverb grown.



I Can



I Can money procure,
For the rich and the poor,
If I open my mouth pretty wide ;
So that there's not a house,
Worth the skip of a louse,
But will for me a lodging provide :
Tho' with Tom, Will, or Bob,
I am licens'd to rob,
And plunder my country all over ;

B 4

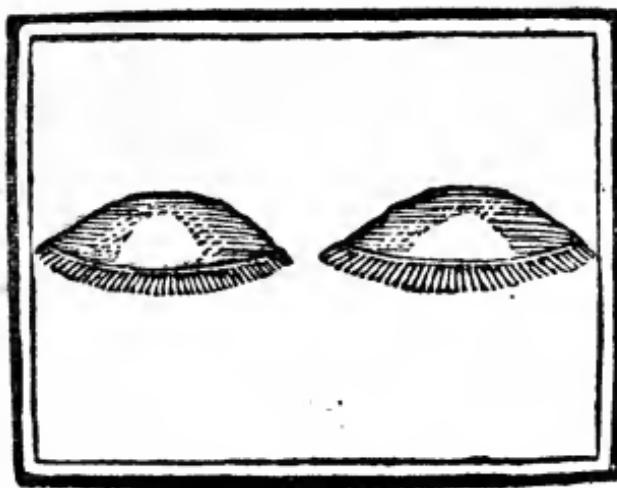
Yet

16 *Food for the Mind; or*

Yet, however unjust,
I keep true to my trust,
And ne'er will my patron discover:
When engag'd for the great,
Or the minions of state,
You'd be shock'd at the havock I make;
For I hack, cut, and slay,
Whate'er falls in my way,
And send it to *hell* for their sake.



The



The EYE-LIDS.

IN courts or cottages we may be found;
Our skirts with fringe of various
dyes are bound;
And as we were by providence design'd,
A guard from harm t' a fav'rite apple
join'd.

We

18 *Food for the MIND ; or,*
We ne'er rove long, nor far a-funder
stray,
But meet and part a thousand times a
day :
When dark, like loving couples, we
unite,
And cuddle close together every night.



TIME.

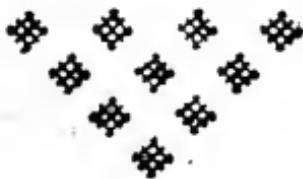


T I M E.

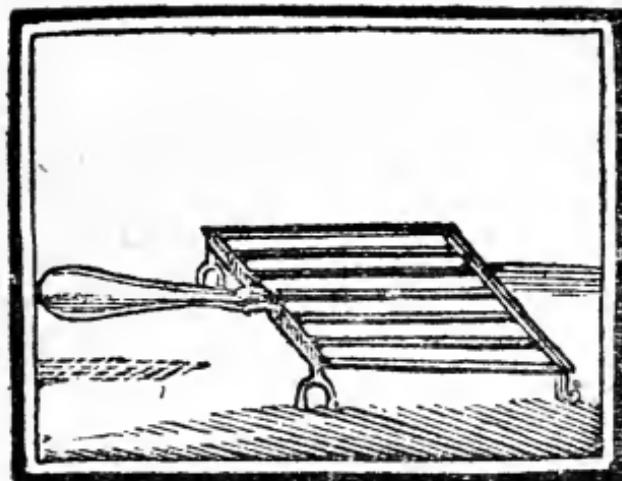
I Was before the world began,
And shall for ever last;
Ere father *Adam* was a man,
Or out of *Eden* cast.
Your mirthful moments I attend,
And mitigate your grief;
Th' industrious peasant I befriend;
To pris'ners give relief.

Make

20 *Food for the Mind*; or,
Make much of me if you are wise,
 And use me while you may;
For you will lose me in a trice,
 As I for no man stay.

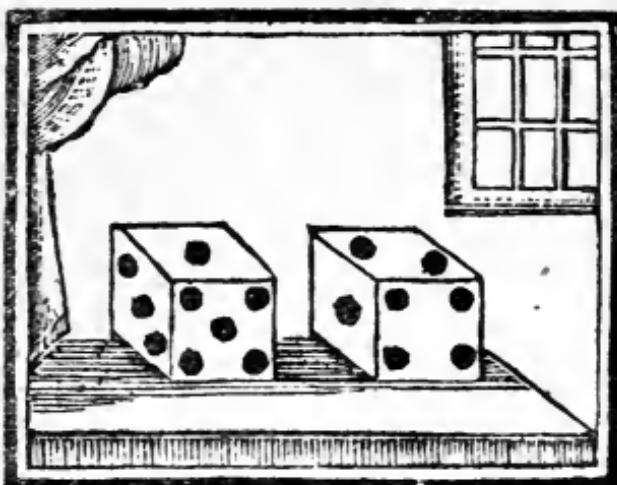


THO'



THO' a cook, I'm so lean,
That my ribs may be seen,
Yet I care not a farthing for that ;
For when viuals I dress,
All about me confess,
They are cover'd all over with fat.

NO



NO twins could e'er with us compare,
 So like in shape and size ;
 Our bodies are like ermin fair
 As black as jet our eyes :
 But tho' so like in ev'ry feature,
 We rival 'brothers be ;
 Yet so obdurate is our nature,
 We often disagree.

Some

Sometimes we play the friendly part,
And sometimes act the foe ;
Now transient happiness impart,
Then cause a future woe :
Thousands by us have curs'd their fate,
Plung'd in the gulph of sin ;
Happy the youth who shuns the bait,
And dreads the fatal gin.



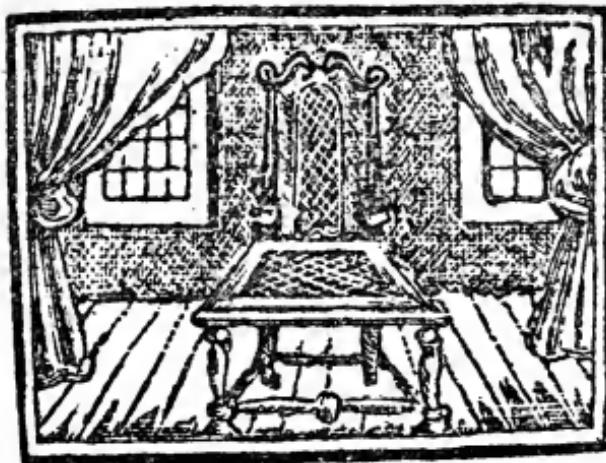
LIKE



A D O L L.

LIKE Lady Patch, in diff'rent dress,
 I either sex can ape;
 And like her, all mankind confess,
 Have comeliness and shape:
 Had she the innocence of me,
 And I her air and parts,
 She would a perfect goddess be,
 And I should gain more hearts.

WHAT



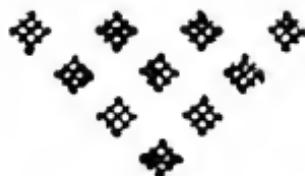
WHAT though I have a hundred
eyes,
Which my beholders may surprise,
Yet I could never see :
WHAT if I fine and gay appear,
And sometimes gold and silver wear,
I'm slav'd by industry.
Both male and female me admire,
Or for my service or attire ;

C

And

26 *FOOD for the MIND ; or,*

And I while young a'm priz'd.
But when I into years am grown,
And with hard labour quite worn down,
I am by both despis'd.



THERE



THERE was a thing a full month
old,

When *Adam* was no more ;
But 'ere that thing was five weeks old,
Adam was years five score.

C 2

THO'



THO' you seem of me fond—for
 my safety provide,
 And when you walk out take me close
 by your side ;
 Yet you oft use me ill, which I take in
 good part,
 Nor e'er murmur or sigh though I'm
 stabb'd to the heart.

WHAT



WHAT being's most despis'd by
man,

And does him all the good he can ;
Who bore the greatest Prince on earth,
That gave to Righteousness new birth ;
Who does sometimes o'er death prevail,
And health restore when doctors fail.

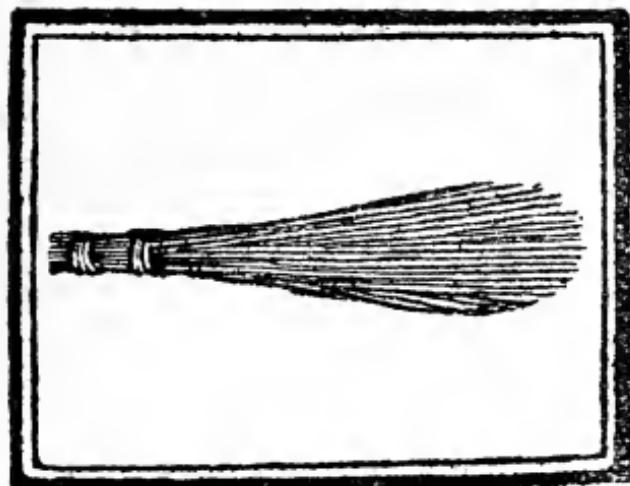
C 3

WE



WE dwell in cottages of straw,
And labour much for little gains;
Sweet meat from us our masters draw,
And then with death reward our pains.

GREAT



GREAT virtues have I,
There's none can deny,
And to this I shall mention an odd one;
When apply'd to the tail,
'Tis seldom I fail
To make a good boy of a bad one.

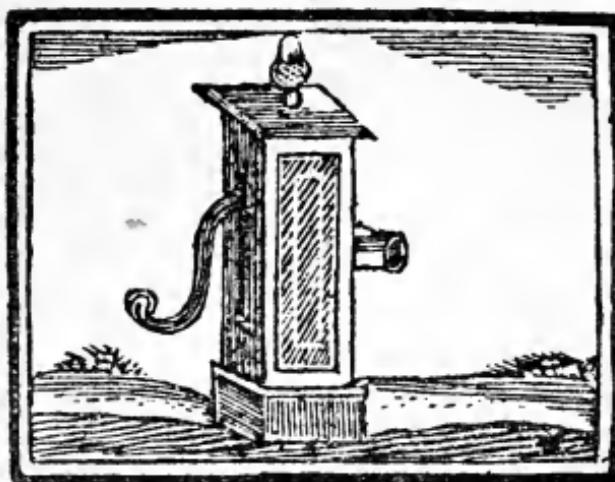
C 4

TWO



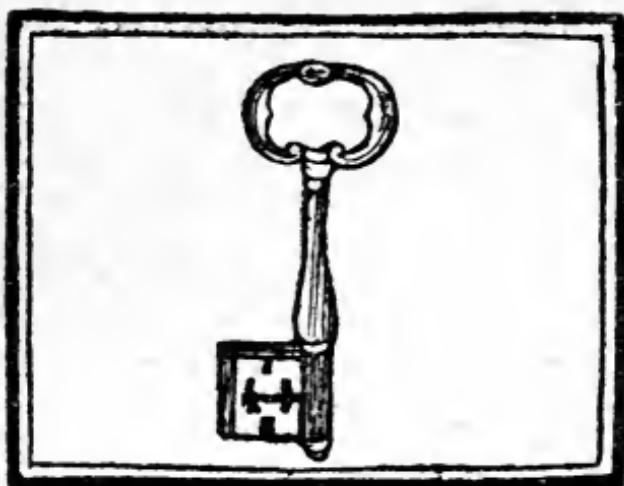
TWO twins we are, and let it not surprise,
Alike in ev'ry feature, shape and size ;
We're square or round, of brass or iron made,
Sometimes of wood, yet useful found in trade :
But to conclude, for all our daily pains,
We by the neck are often hung in chains.

A



A Head and body large I have,
Stomach and bowels too ;
One winding gut of mighty length,
Where all my food goes through ;
But what's more strange, my food I take
In at the lower end ;
And all, just like a drunken rake,
Out at my mouth I send.

WHAT



WHAT force and strength could
not get through,
I with a gentle touch can do;
And many in the streets would stand,
Were I not as a friend at hand.

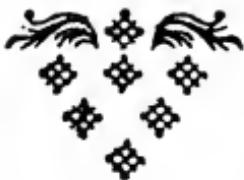
HOMER



H O M E R of old, as stories tell,
His *Iliad* put in a nut-shell ;
But did you know what I conceal, —
Suppose a kingdom, common-weal,
At stake,—Here all the springs are
found,
Which set the wheel a whirling round.
In me a thousand mischiefs lie,
A thousand pleasures I supply ;

Ia

36 *Food for the Mind; or,*
In me are hid affairs of state,
In me the secrets of the great;
In me the merchant lays his dust,
In me the tradesman puts his trust;
But hold—my being to explore,
Know I'm inanimate—no more.



THO'



THO' light my body is and small,
Tho' I have wings to fly withal,
And thro' the air may rove ;
Yet was I not by nature pres'd
In ease and indolence I'd rest ;
And never choose to move.
'Tis beating makes me diligent ;
When beat and on an errand sent,
I hurry

38 *Food for the MIND; or,*

I hurry to and fro ;
And like an idle boy in school,
Whom nothing but the rod can rule,
Improve at every blow.



WITH



WITH a badge on my back,
Of red, orange, and black,
I travel the nation all over,
And however abus'd,
Without violence us'd,
Will never my bus'ness discover;
I'm of service to state,
To the poor and the great,
To the tradesman, mechanic and beau;
Some

40 *Food for the MIND; or,*

Some of whom I attend
Ev'ry day as a friend,
But to others bring sorrow and woe :
All kindly receive me,
And you may believe me,
Scarce ever refuse me my pay ;
For whoever does this,
Take it well or amiss,
With him not a moment I stay.



IT



IT foams without anger,
It flies without wings,
It cuts without edge,
And without tongue it sings.

D

IN



I N spring I look gay,
Deck'd in comely array,
In summer more cloathing I wear :
When colder it grows,
I fling off my cloaths,
And in winter quite naked appear.

MIDST



MIDST numbers round I spy'd a
beauty fair,
More charming than her circling sisters
were :
With blushing cheek she tempting of
me stood,
At last I cropt her bloom and suck'd
her blood ;
Sweet meat she was, but neither flesh
nor bone,
Yet in her tender heart she had a stone.



1.

I'M captain of a party small,
Whose number is but *five* ;
But yet do great exploits for *all*,
And ev'ry man alive.

2.

With *Adam* I was seen to live,
Ere he knew what was evil ;
But no connexion have with *Eve*,
The serpent or the devil.

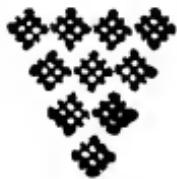
3.

3.

I on our *Saviour's Laws* attend,
And fly deceit and vice ;
Patriot and Protestant befriend,
But Infidels despise.

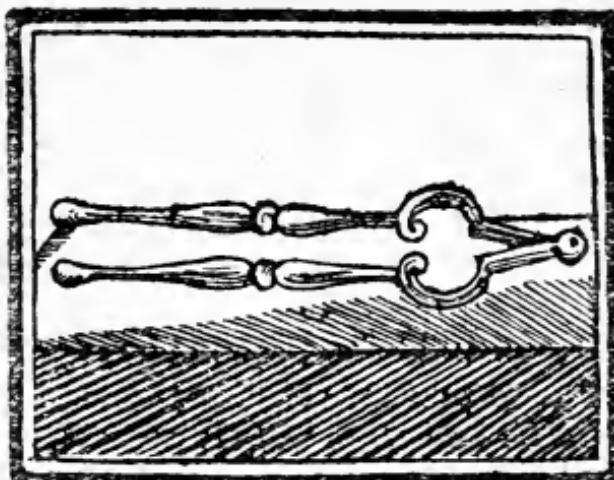
4.

Matthew and *Mark* both me have got ;
But to prevent vexation,
St. Luke and *John* possess me not,
Tho' found in ev'ry nation.



D 3

MY

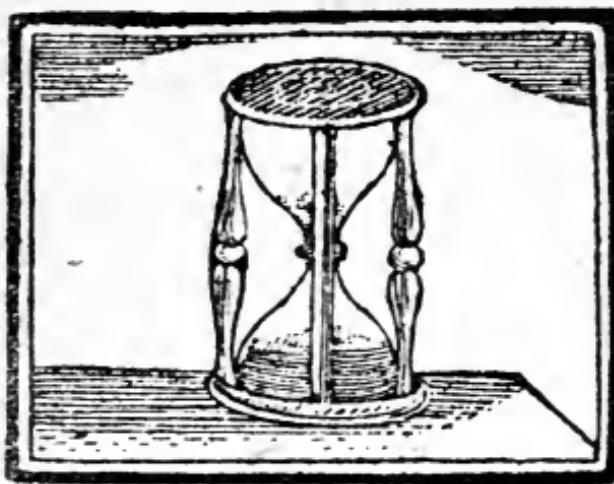


MY form is awkward, let me tell ye,
Long my legs and large my belly,
Webb'd my feet and short my waist,
My head with orb of glory grac'd ;
My neck indented makes the show
Of breast protuberant below ;
And what your wonder more commands
I use my feet instead of hands ;
Tho' such my shape, my station's warm,
And many I preserve from harm :

So

So that the belles oft me careſs,
And beaux ſometimes my aid confeſſ:—
Hence learn that all things have their
use,
That art or nature does produce.





TWO bodies have I,
Tho' both join'd in one:
The stiller I stand,
The faster I run.

WHY



WHY should I my features sham,
Why ugly to a proverb am,
Fierce, obdurate, cruel, strong,
Frightful to the old and young;
Yet, by early education,
Hit the taste of ev'ry nation,
Dance and exercise my staff;
But to make spectators laugh;
Often ride before the great,
Oft with ministers of state;

And

50 *Food for the MIND; or,*
And tho' aukward is my mein,
I often on the stage am seen :
But to raise your wonder higher,
I to greater heights aspire ;
At table I my Lord attend,
Please him and gratify his friend.



• FOR



FOR vigilance and courage true
I've no superior, equals few ;
Which makes me by th' industrious
priz'd,
But by the indolent despis'd ;
Bold and alert I meet the foe,
In all engagements valour show ;
And if he proves too proud to yield,
One falls before we quit the field :

But

52. *Food for the Mind; or,*
But tho' with these perfections great
I am endu'd - such is my fate;
They seize and to a stake me tie,
And bastinade me till I die.



I Know



I Know my owner, serve my feeder,
But have no notion of my breeder;
Who sought the means to change my
nature,
And from a fierce unruly creature,
Made me as useful to the nation,
As some who move in higher station;
For I, with gratitude abundant,
My owner's praise set forth redundant;
And

54 *Food for the MIND*; or,
And fraught with virtues deem'd inher-
rent,
May well be call'd the King's vicege-
rent;
As I his subjects render stronger,
And die that they may live the longer.



TO



To king and subject I assistance
lend;
In war a firm ally, in peace a friend;
To their diversions am a perfect slave,
At home submissive, but in battle brave;
When the shrill trumpet sounds I take
the field,
Laugh at the pointed spear and glitt'ring
shield;
Bold

56 *Food for the Mind; or,*

Bold and intrepid meet the daring foe,
Willing and able to repeat the blow ;
To peer or prelate I give health and
ease ;
The lady, merchant, and the peasant
please :
Nay,—of such gen'ral use is my em-
ployment,
Without me life would scarce be worth
enjoyment.



I From



I From abroad a pris'ner brought,
Was soon the English language
taught,
And pleas'd my lord so well,
He introduc'd me to his spouse,
Where I in comfort dwell ;
For when the sky's serene and clear,
I walk abroad to take the air,
And to observe what passes ;

E

Where

58 *Food for the Mind; or,*
Where learning half the tricks in town,
I make remarks on ev'ry clown,
 And laugh at lads and lasses;
When tired with that I call a coach,
(Bold and regardless of reproach)
 Then whistle, sing, and cough;
And having teaz'd the man awhile,
With the imposture pleas'd I smile,
 And bid the knave walk off.



MY



MY patron is wisdom—If wisdom
you prize,
In me put your confidence, borrow my
eyes ;
Who into a millstone can see full as far,
As the best of you all, by the light of a
star ;
Cou'd the *Royal Society* purchase my skill,
Or the wise men of *Gresham* like me
have their will ;

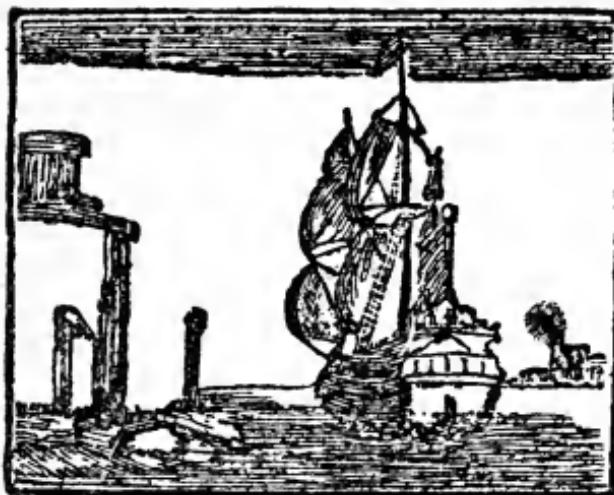
E 2

They

60 - *Food for the MIND; or,*
They ne'er had admitted pretenders to
science,
And for learned members bid *Europe*
defiance.
In short—had some wise ones but my
penetration,
It had long ago much better far'd with
the nation.



IN



IN me behold the height of human
art,
Hear what the elements to me impart ;
My origin I owe to mother *Earth*,
Fire was the midwife forwarded my
birth ;
Air gave me wings, and added to my
voice,
And *Neptune* made me his peculiar
choice,

E ;

To

62 *Food for the Mind; or,*
To me committed his dominions vast :
Jove wav'd his sceptre, and the fiat
paf'd ;
I took possession without more delay,
And hold the liquid empire to this day.



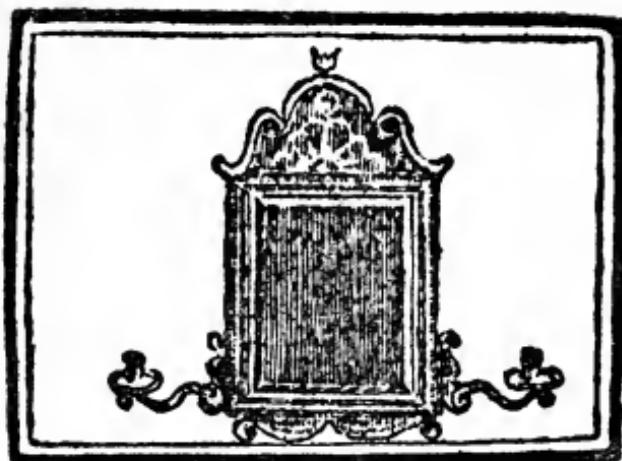
I Am



I Am short, let me tell ye,
But have a big belly,
Which a boddice lac'd round me re-
strains ;
I have also a head,
But may truly be said,
To carry no guts in my brains :
My skull is so soft,
That when taken aloft,

64 *Food for the MIND ; or,*
You would swear I should soon shake
asunder ;
For which I am beat,
Till set down on my feet,
And roar all the time loud as thunder,
But the great ones of late,
Who all pity'd my fate,
Resolving to alter my station,
Made me known to the fair,
Who can now with an air,
Call upon me for their recreation.

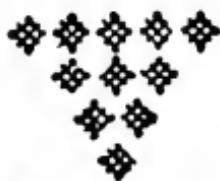




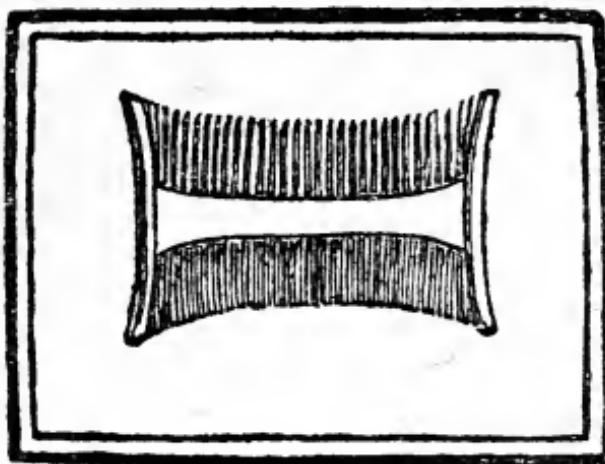
I In gold and silver dress'd,
Am by belles and beaux care'd;
Who on each day attend,
As their counsellor and friend,
Here they practise harmless guiles,
Artful glances, killing smiles :
Here they all their beauty show,
Here they string the bended bow :

Here

66 *Food for the MIND; or,*
Here the quiver's fraught with darts,
Which they aim at lovers hearts;
And never make a visit twice,
Without asking my advice.



I am



I Am white at the neck as *Susannah*
the fair,
Tho' my body sometimes is all cover'd
with hair;
As a flounder am flat, as a beetle am
blind,
Yet good services do to the race of
mankind:
The copses and coverts I traverse each
day,

To

68 *Food for the MIND ; or,*
To drive from their holds and destroy
beasts of prey ;
Having two rows of teeth for engage-
ment design'd,
They all fly before me like chaff before
wind ;
Now tell but my name, ye mammas or
misses,
And those who stand by shall reward
you with kisses,



ONE



ONE winter's evening very dark,
 As I cross'd o'er St. James's Park,
 I got an odd but civil friend
 To light me to my journey's end ;
 His cap to me did plain appear
 Like that of the fierce grenadier ;
 Black was the cloak which wrapp'd
 him round,
 And his feet never touch'd the ground ;
 He seem'd of the infernal race,
 With flaming fire about his face ;
 While

70 *Food for the Mind* ; or,
While from his nostrils issu'd smoke,
Yet all the way he never spoke :
Thus guarded I was carry'd home ;
But soon as to the door I come,
An opake body interpos'd,
And the surprizing scene was clos'd.



WHEN



WHEN our master or mistress my
service befriends,
I keep moving all day to make them
amends;
I inform them when breakfast and din-
ner is ready,
And am in my duty surprisingly steady;
I speak when I'm bid, and if not hold
my tongue,

Thus

72 *Food for the Mind*; or,
Thus accomplish'd, I'm welcome to
old and to young;
Ev'n for their devotion instructions I
give,
And can teach the extravagant heir
how to live;
But with them to the playhouse when
I take a trip,
If not narrowly watch'd I oft give them
the slip;
But tho' when well us'd I'm to all very
civil,
When slighted I'm sullen and false as
the devil.



THO'

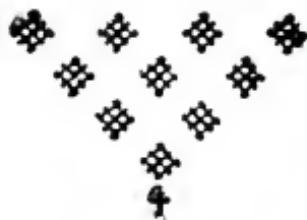


THO' good fellows we are,
We can't hope to be sav'd ;
From our very first day,
To our last we're enslav'd,
Our office is hardest,
And food sure the worst,
Being cramm'd with raw flesh,
Till we're ready to burst ;

F

Tho'

74 *Food for the MIND; or,*
Tho' low in our state,
Ev'n Kings we support;
And at balls have
The principal share of the sport.



MY



MY Lords and Gentlemen advance,
Come with a cheerful countenance,
And tell abroad my praise,
Whether you in the senate sit,
Or at the bar display your wit,
'Tis I your spirits raise ;
I from the hero banish fear,
I whisper in the poet's ear,
And teach him how to sing ;

F a

At

26 *FOOD for the MIND : or,*
At my approach care steals away,
And all the troubles of the day,
Immediately take wing :
'Tis I th' afflicted souls relieve,
To the desponding comfort give,
And make the statesman bold ;
The balm I yield, if well apply'd,
Extends its friendly influence wide,
And aids both young and old.



WHILE



WHILE tears fall down, behold
how gay,
How beautiful my dress ;
Not *Flora* in the month of *May*
Does greater joy express,
And as on her the short-liv'd pride,
Sol's friendly beams bestow,
So I my charms, extended wide,
To the same patron owe :

78 *Food for the MIND ; or,*
The elements are all combin'd
To form my transient beauty,
And I as God himself design'd,
Do my appointed duty :
Thus plac'd aloft to catch the eye,
Like Beacon on a hill,
I tell not who comes to destroy,
Yet obviate future ill.



THO'

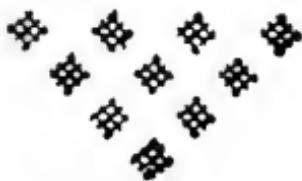


THO' big my belly, long my nose,
And with one arm I strut;
I make the fair their foes expose,
And keep my own mouth shut:
Before me they their secrets tell,
The news of all the day;
And for my silence I'm fed well,
But empty sent away:

F 4

Yet

80 *Food for the MIND*; or,
Yet tho' they love my company,
And seem to me so civil;
Sometimes you'd swear they thought
 that I
Had dealings with the devil.



EMBLEM



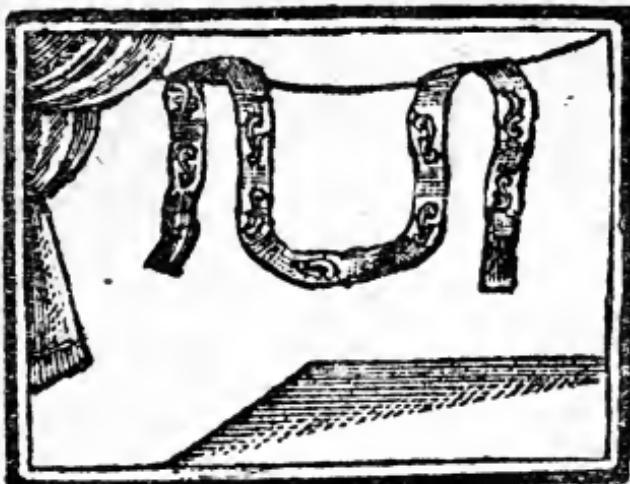
EMBLEM of youth and innocence,
With walls enclos'd for my defence,
And with no care or press'd,
I boldly spread my charms around,
Till some rude lover breaks the mound,
And takes me to his breast ;
Here soon I sicken and decay,
My beauty lost, I'm turn'd away,
And thrown upon the street ;

Where

82 *Food for the MIND*; or,
Where I despis'd and rolling lie,
See no Samaritan pass by,
But num'rous insults meet :—
Ladies, contemplate well my fate,
Reflect upon my wretched state ;
Implore th' Almighty's aid,
Lest you (which Heav'n avert) like me
Shou'd come to want and misery,
Be ruin'd and betray'd.



LOOK



LOOK at the rainbow in the sky,
See summer morning clouds pass by;
Go search the gardens and the fields,
Observe what bounteous nature yields;
You'll scarcely find a flower or plant,
Whose beauty I or colour want:
Thus furnish'd, I oblige the fair,
And change my colour ev'ry year;
Attend the Gen'ral—grace the Lord,
And to both sexes joy afford:

But

84 *Food for the Mind*; or,
But hold, methinks too far I go,
Being oft the messenger of woe:
Consult the glass with decent air,
My nature, use, and name declare.



W H O



WHO was he, that by a kiss
Lost a more substantial bliss ;
Sold his crown for paltry pelf,
Sneak'd away and hang'd himself ?
Beware, ye mercenaries all,
Lest the same fate should you befall.



If old stories say true,
I could once talk like you ;
But for fear of becoming a slave,
I was instantly mute,
And grew cunning to boot,
Determin'd my freedom to save :
Now to the fop and the fool,
And the rude boy at school,
All endeavour to practice my art ;
But

But their efforts are vain,
They pretenders remain,
And must—till the world they depart :
To observe how I grin,
With snub nose, lips, and chin,
Would the laughter excite of a lord :
And for mimicry too,
I my betters out-do,
And more innocent pleasure afford.





I, A busy active creature,
 I, Fashion'd for the sport of nature,
 Nimbly skip from tree to tree,
 Under a well-wrought canopy ;
 And, for cleanliness and air,
 Am a pattern to the fair,
 I, to arms and blood a stranger,
 Apprehensive of no danger,
 Like the ant for winter store,
 Searching treasure to explore,

On

On a sudden hear the foe,
Cause and object of my woe ;
By whom I'm soon a prisoner made,
Chain'd and in a dungeon laid :
Bid *Chloe* then and *Miræ* tell
What's my name, and where I dwell.





Of all the arts in which we shine,
Or sciences acquir'd,
There's none so difficult as mine,
Less practis'd, more admir'd :
Behold my whimsical attire,
How awkward my address ;
The trade which I take up for hire,
Millions unknown profess.

— I Addle,

I fiddle, sing, prate, laugh and cry,
To draw the thoughtless in ;
And num'rous other antics try,
To bait the subtle grin :
But when surrounded with a crowd,
To shew myself more funny,
I tell my master's fame aloud,
And ease them of their money.



G a

I am



I Am chief of a clan, which by God
 was appointed
 To establish his throne, and preserve
 his anointed ;
 The grandeur observe of my house and
 attire,
 And tell me what mortal can raise his
 head higher ;
 My servants are num'rous, their wages
 well paid,
 Who for constant attendance insure fu-
 ture aid: To

To all ranks and degrees of mankind I
am civil,
And do all that I can to deter them from
evil.

Nay,—Those suppliant all who my
levee attend,
In me find a servant, a father, a friend:
And some, who my service and sov'reign
denv'd,
Have liv'd to repent of that crime ere
they dy'd.



WHEN



WHEN you the *fortune hunter* meet,
 Upon a gaudy day,
 Compleatly rigg'd from head to feet,
 In *Monmouth street* array ;
 Then turn your wand'ring eye to me,
 My vanity admire ;
 Observe, here the like fallacy
 Lurks under my attire ;
 For

For all the fin'ry round me thrown,
I'm forc'd to beg or borrow ;
And shou'd my neighbours claim their
own,
Must naked go to-morrow.



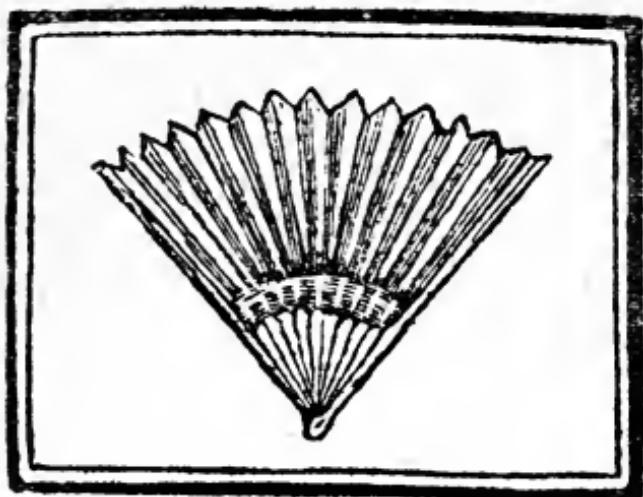


HOW many millions for my sake
 have dy'd,
 What frauds and villanies have not
 been try'd !
 And all the grandeur which my race
 adorns
 Is like the rose beset around with thorns ;
 Nay, when possess'd, such your enjoy-
 ments are,
 to my owners trouble bring and care.
 I Ev'n

Ev'n they, by whom I am so highly
priz'd,
If good are hated, and if bad despis'd.
Thus 'twixt the plague of getting me
and losing.
By some I'm thought not worth a wife
man's chusing.



COME



COME hear and see a taudy thing,
Fluttering with expanded wing;
Like the lark that upward tends,
And like her too, when she descends
Toss'd by the owner to and fro,
Her beauty and its own to show;
Suff'ring much at ball and play
And working ev'ry holiday;

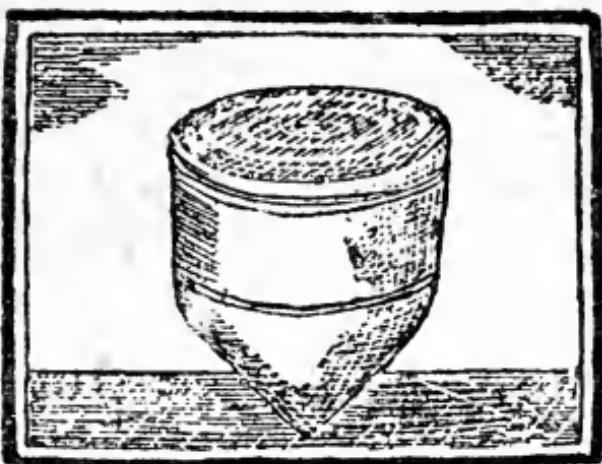
But

a New RIDDLE-Book. 99

But what is still more strange to tell,
When by *Belinda* manag'd well,
Its pow'r th' admiring youth perplexes,
For her it cools, but burns *Alexes*.



I Ne'er



I Ne'er offend thee,
 Yet thou dost me whip,
 Which don't amend me,
 'Tho' I dance and skip :
 When I'm upright, me youalways like
 best,
 And barb'rously whip me when I want
 rest

M Y

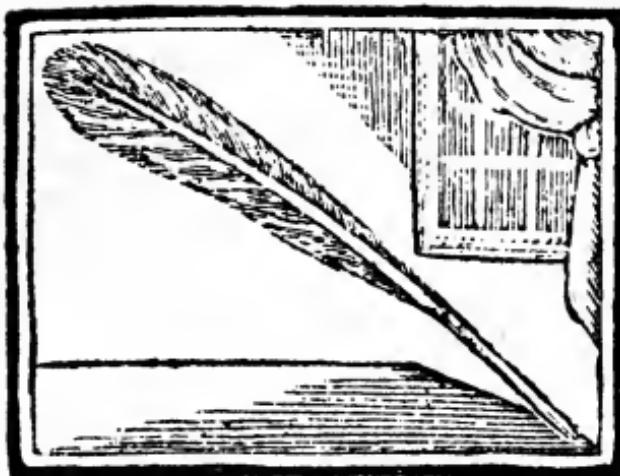


MY proper title I forsake,
And often that of others take;
Sometimes a king in stately pride,
With lofty majesty I stride;
Sometimes with sprightly nymphs and
swains,
I trip it o'er the flow'ry plains;
Sometimes I fleet aloft in air,
And oftentimes quite disappear:
In various shapes I'm known to be,
And children often start at me. MY



MY nose is long, my back is broad
and round,
And in my belly oft two holes are found;
No load I carry, yet I puff and blow,
As much as heavy loaded porters do.

WHEN



WHEN in my youth, I was my
mother's pride;
We always went together, side by side;
No harm I wrought, by either word or
deed;
For to be plain, I could not write or read;
But soon as man seiz'd on my tender
frame,
Depriv'd of life, his pupil I became,
And

104 *Food for the MIND; or,*
And tho' of late so innocent and mild,
With blackest deeds my virtue's now
defil'd;
My tongue he flits, and I begin to prate
Of friends and foes, of politics and
state.



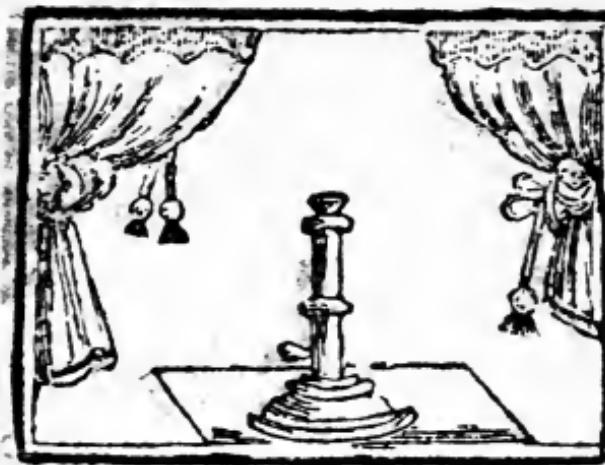
LEGS



LEGS I have got, yet seldom do I
walk ;
I backbite many, yet I never talk :
In secret places most I seek to hide me,
For he who feeds me never can abide me

H

WHILE



WHILE young and gay, and deck'd
 with utmost pride,
 I long'd and thought it heav'n to be a
 bride;
 At length a wealthy merchant view'd
 my charms,
 Tall and genteel, I took him to my
 arms;

But

But he, in spite of all the med'cines
try'd,
That very night light headed grew and
dy'd :
Instructed by this merchant's fortune
go,
Nor dream of lasting happiness below.





T IS true I have both face and
hands,
And move before your eye ;
Yet when I go my body stands,
And when I stand I lie.

OF



Of all dame nature's progeny,
There's scarce one being more
than me
Alive despis'd and hated ;
But tho' I am a filthy creature,
Without one amiable feature,
It strongly is debated,
Whether I don't excel the man,
Who thro' the paths of vice has ran,
And does no good while living ;

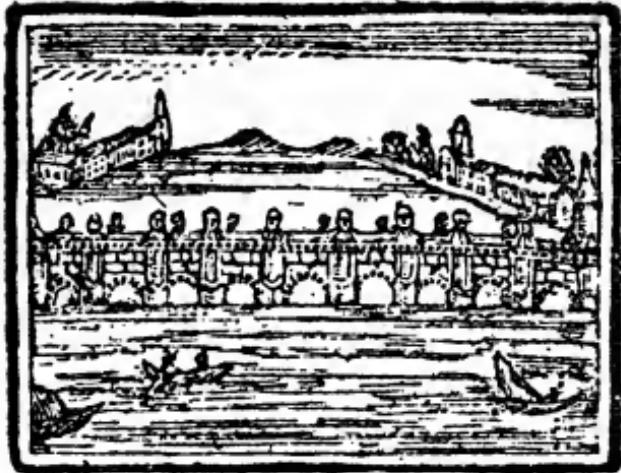
H 3

But

180 *Fees for the MIND*; or,
But left a torn estate behind,
To put his family in mind,
He'd nothing worth the giving;
While I, whene'er impartial death
Pierces my heart or stops my breath,
My income ne'er destroy;
But for all favours done,
Return the living three for one,
And give the household joy.



BEHOLD



BEHOLD yon powder'd beau, how
fine and fair :
Great Britain's glory, but his father's
care ;
Observe his equipage, how grand, how
neat,
In ev'ry article alike compleat ;
See him look down with scorn upon his
fire,
While gaping passengers his pride ad-
mire.

H 4

Would

112 *Food for the Mind, &c.*

Would you his residence or haunts explore,
Accept his key and open wide the door.
When bus'ness in the senate calls you there,
You'll soon behold this noble upstart near ;
Or if for pleasure you to *Vauxhall* stray,
'Tis ten to one you pass him on the way ;
But thro' the city should you chance to range,
You'll never find the booby upon change.
Like those fine gentlemen whom courts inclose,
He trade despises, though from trade he rose.

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1899-1900.

LONDON : PUBLISHED BY

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Simpkin, Marshall, Hamilton, Kent & Co., Ltd :

New York : Charles Scribner's Sons, 153-157 Fifth Avenue.

[OVER]

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Jan
50

